

Shatabdi/Premier/Superfast and Mail/Express trains. Priority for allotment of pantry cars in Rajdhani Express, long distance Premier/Superfast trains, Mail/Express trains with more than 24 hours running time each way and the remaining trains with preference to those trains in which vestibules are provided. No definite time frame can be given for provision of pantry cars in different trains including Kaifiyat Express as this is subject to availability of pantry cars and priority of the train.

FDI in Railways

1162. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railways proposes to open up most of its activities to private agencies,

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reaction of the private agencies on the proposal;

(c) whether FDI would also be permitted in such activities; and

(d) if so, the extent to and areas in which FDI would be allowed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A number of areas/activities such as upgradation of stations at major metropolitan cities, establishment of super speciality hospitals, setting up of manufacturing units for rolling stock, infrastructure projects for port connectivity through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and several activities in catering/tourism and hospitality area have been identified for possible execution through public-private partnership route.

(c) and (d) In terms of the Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act 1951, 'Railway Transport' sector is reserved exclusively for Public Sector. It has been clarified by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion that no Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted in passenger/freight transportation and pushing and towing services as these services are reserved for Public Sector. Foreign Direct Investment upto 100% is, however, permitted under the automatic route in respect of construction and maintenance of rail/beds bridges and tunnels etc.